

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01218 011527Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----124174 011528Z /64
R 011035Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2111

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 1218

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, BC
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

REF:STATE 82850

1. CONCERNING LATEST RHODESIAN RAILWAY DEVELOPMENTS, EMBASSY WOULD REFER DEPARTMENT TO GABORONE 0685 AND PREVIOUS. CONSTRUCTION OF POSSIBLE EAST-WEST RAILROAD WHICH WOULD CONNECT EASTERN BOTSWANA TO WALVIS BAY IS NOT MUCH BEYOND CONCEPTUALIZATION STAGE AS REPORTED 77 GABORONE 1748.

2. AIRPORT: BOTSWANA PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHOSE 3000-3,500 METER LONG RUNWAY WOULD ACCEPT PASSENGER AND FREIGHT SERVICES IN MAGNITUDE OF BOEING 707/320, WITH A FUTURE CAPACITY TO HANDLE WIDE-BODIED JETS OF THE 747 TYPE. LOAD CLASSIFICATION NUMBER WILL BE 100 (PRESENT AIRFIELD HAS LCN OF 20).

3. EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON THE RUNWAY, PARKING FACILITIES AND OPERATIONAL AIDS INSTEAD OF UPON PASSENGER FACILITIES WHICH WILL BE MINIMAL, BUT WHICH CAN BE MODULARLY EXPANDED AS REQUIRED.

4. PLANNED CONSTRUCTION COST WILL BE ABOUT 15 MILLION PULA IN 1977 TERMS BUT WILL LIKELY INCREASE TO 20 MILLION
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PULA. SHOULD FINANCING TERMS INCLUDE RESTRICTIONS AGAINST PROCURING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA, COSTS COULD BE RAISED BY THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT.

5. TIME FRAME: AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED IN MAY 1978 WITH UK CONSULTING FIRM OF ALEXANDER GIBB FOR FEASIBILITY AND MASTER PLAN STUDY. STUDY TO BE FINANCED BY AFRICAN BANK

AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY 1979. SECOND STAGE
OF DETAILED DESIGN STUDY WILL BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY
1980, CONSTRUCTION WILL START IN MID-1980 AND END IN
MID-1982.

6. FINANCING: ACCORDING TO CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTOR
HARVEY DIPPER, FINANCING QUESTION IS WIDE OPEN AT THIS
TIME. GRANTS AND SOFT LOANS (WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS) FROM
DONOR STATES ARE PREFERRED IN THAT ORDER.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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